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ST. IVES (HUNTS)  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH  
AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR 1962

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## **LIST OF PARISHES IN THE COUNCIL'S AREA**

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Bluntisham	Hilton
Broughton	Holywell-cum-Needingworth
Bury	Houghton and Wyton
Colne	Oldhurst
Earith	Pidley-cum-Fenton
Fenstanton	Somersham
Hemingford Abbots	Warboys
Hemingford Grey	Wistow
	Woodhurst

# Saint Ives Rural District Council

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*Chairman of the Council:*

G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E., J.P.

*Vice-Chairman of the Council:*

D. B. Wright, Esq.

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.

*Vice-Chairman:*

D. B. Wright, Esq.

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## Public Health Staff

*Medical Officer of Health:*

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

*Senior Public Health Inspector:*

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors:*

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

M. D. Hey, M.A.P.H.I.

*Administrative Assistant:*

F. W. Palmer.

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR  
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF  
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31st December, 1962

To:— The Chairman and Members of the  
St. Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1962.

As can be seen from the appropriate tables the vital statistics reflect favourably on the District as a whole — the Birth and Death Rates comparing very well with both the County and National figures.

Notifiable Infectious Disease ran at a very low level during the year there being no outbreak reported. Measles was conspicuous by its comparative absence this year but fluctuation in the incidence of this disease is to be expected. It is a pleasing feature to note again the complete absence of Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria within the District. Credit for this is mainly due to the increasing number being immunised against these diseases.

The commonest cause of death is still disease of the Cardio-Vascular system which accounts for almost half the mortality figure, malignant disease being the next most common cause.

The residential development of the area proceeded at a steady pace throughout the year. Owing to the shortage of land in the riverside villages development is now taking place in the other villages throughout the District.

The demand for Council Houses has increased during the year and does indicate that further houses are required for the general needs of the District.

It is gratifying to note that the Main Drainage of the riverside villages of Houghton, Wyton and The Hemingfords proceeded without interruption and it is anticipated that the scheme will be in operation by the end of 1963.

Following the approval in principal from the Ministry for the sewerage of the village of Bury negotiations are proceeding with Ramsey Urban District Council regarding the treatment of sewerage from this village at the Ramsey Disposal Works.

The Ministry held an informal enquiry in respect of the Holywell-cum-Needingworth Main Drainage Scheme and has agreed to the Council's proposal subject to the clarification of the treatment of farm effluents.

The water supply to part of the District has been provided by the newly constituted Nene and Ouse Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company is due to take over the supply and distribution of water to the remaining part of the District.

In conclusion I should like to thank members of the Council for their kindness to me during the year and all the Officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation.

I am, Your obedient Servant,  
J. CALDWELL,  
Medical Officer of Health.

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## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

### General Statistics

Population (middle 1962) ...	... ...	15,570
Area (acres)	... ... ...	45,911
Rateable value	... ... ...	£174,967
Sum represented by a penny rate	... ...	£765
Number of inhabited houses	... ...	4,570

## VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M.	F.	Total	Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	18.6
Legitimate	129	150	279	Comparability Factor	1.01
Illegitimate	4	7	11	Corrected Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population	19.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>290</b>	(Ditto for England and Wales)	18.0
<b>Still Births</b>				<b>Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Legitimate	—	2	2		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
<b>Total</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	(Ditto for England and Wales)	10.1
<b>Deaths</b>				Crude Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	7.9
All ages	70	53	123	Comparability Factor	1.19
				Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 estimated population	9.4
				(Ditto for England and Wales)	11.9

The following table indicates the trends in the Birth and Death Rate for the District over the past five years and compares them with those for the County of Huntingdon and for England and Wales.

BIRTH RATE	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
St. Ives R.D.C. ..	17.4	18.5	19.9	18.3	19.9
County of Huntingdon	19.8	19.6	19.7	20.6	21.6
England and Wales ..	16.4	16.5	17.1	17.4	18.0
DEATH RATE					
St. Ives R.D.C. ..	10.5	9.8	8.8	8.9	9.4
County of Huntingdon	10.1	10.1	10.6	10.1	10.4
England and Wales ..	11.7	11.6	11.5	12.0	11.9
Deaths of infants under 1 year				M.	F.
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	4	0
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	—	—
				Total	4
					4

Death Rates of infants under 1 year.

All infants per 1,000 live Births ...	...	13.8
(Ditto for England and Wales) ...	...	20.7

## CAUSES OF DEATH

(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	M.	F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	0 0
3	Syphilitic disease	...	0 0
4	Diphtheria	...	0 0
5	Whooping Cough	...	0 0
6	Meningococcal infections	...	0 0
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	0 0
8	Measles	...	0 0
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	0 0
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	2 3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	5 1
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	0 1
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	0 1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	7 4
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	1 0
16	Diabetes	...	0 1
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	...	4 7
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	13 11
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	1 1
20	Other heart disease	...	9 12
21	Other circulatory disease	...	0 2
22	Influenza	...	0 0
23	Pneumonia	...	5 3
24	Bronchitis	...	3 1
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	1 0
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	2 0
27	Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	...	1 0
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	0 0
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3 0
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	0 0
31	Congenital malformations	...	0 0
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	6 1
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	0 0
34	All other accidents	...	6 3
35	Suicide	...	1 1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	0 0
Total all causes		...	70 53

## TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
I	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..
10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20	..	..	..	I	I	..	..	I
25	..	..	..	I	..	..	..	I
35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
45	..	..	..	..	..	..	I	..
55	..	..	..	..	I	I	..	..
65 and upwards	..	2	I	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	..	4	3	I	0	I	3	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

						Total Cases Notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	3
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	31
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	2
						—
Total	...					44

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

### (a) **Laboratory Facilities**

The following laboratory facilities have been available to the authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst, S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C., Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel.: Cambridge 2097.

### (b) **Ambulance Service**

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. Tel.: Huntingdon 348.

### (c) **Home Nursing**

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases,

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Warboys, Wistow and Broughton.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Bluntisham, Earith, Somersham and Pidley.
- (iii) A Nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A Nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (v) A Nurse residing in St. Ives (Tel.: St. Ives 2321) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

### (d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

- (i) The following Health Services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m.  1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m.  2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m.  1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto.  Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Schoolroom, Somersham. Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m.  Every Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives.  Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10 a.m.- 12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental Out-Patients' Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

**(e) Hospital Services.**

**Fever.** Cases of Infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

**General Hospital Services** were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

**Maternity Cases** were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Hospital, Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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To:—

The Chairman and Members of the Council  
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with a certain sense of satisfaction, tempered perhaps with a slight touch of frustration, that I present my Twenty-fifth Annual Report on the activities of the Department.

The satisfaction arises from the substantial changes that have taken place in the district over the past two decades in public health administration and environmental hygiene, which are due, in no small measure, to the progressive policy pursued by the Council.

It has been said that “The initial devising of solutions to problems and difficulties was unlikely to emerge from a Committee Room. The Committee should study, then accept, amend, modify or reject what was put to it, but could only arrive at a solution if clear propositions for action were put to it.”

The increasing complexities of Local Government legislation makes it difficult for an officer to put forward anything clear cut on which a committee can reach a decision; a decision, which, more often than not, also has to receive the blessing of the Ministry.

The procedures are involved, delays occur, some unavoidable, some unforeseen, many perhaps unnecessary, and a sense of frustration then enfolds all concerned.

The Report for 1962 reflects, I think, both the efforts of the Council and the Department to overcome these difficulties.

I am, Your Obedient Servant,  
G. H. PHIPPS,  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

### 1. (1) Water

As reported in 1961, The Nene and Ouse Water Board is now responsible for the supply and distribution of water to the Parishes of Hemingford Grey, Hemingford Abbots and Houghton and Wyton.

The Board found it necessary to restrict the use of water for non-domestic purposes during the summer months.

Similar restrictions were in force in the remainder of the District, which latter area will be controlled by the Cambridge Water Company in 1963.

Both the Board and the Water Company are actively engaged on schemes to augment the supply to their respective areas and improve the pressure where necessary.

The Diddington Scheme will ultimately ensure an adequate supply to those areas supplied by the Nene and Ouse Board, but distribution problems will undoubtedly occur for some time to come. On the other hand it is anticipated that the progressive policy pursued by the Cambridge Water Company will be continued in the future.

It should be remembered that the present position has arisen as a result of the Ministry's policy for the re-grouping of Water Undertakings of which two of the main objects were improvements in both distribution and supply.

In this connection it should be noted that development in the riverside villages is proceeding at a steady rate and it will need the co-operation of both these Water Authorities to ensure that the natural development of the district can proceed.

Generally speaking there is a good network of water mains throughout the district, extending to the fen areas in the north, and undoubtedly the mains will continue to be extended to serve even the more isolated farms and cottages.

### 1. (2) Drainage and Sewerage

Good progress was made on the construction of the Sewage Disposal Works at Hemingford Abbots and the laying of the main sewers in both the Hemingfords' and parts of Houghton and Wyton.

Ground conditions were exceptionally difficult, and the Contractors were obliged to use de-watering equipment for practically all the excavation work at the pumping station sites and alongside the sewer trenches.

To facilitate the work and minimise the difficulties all the sewers up to 6" diameter are of pitch fibre; the remainder of the sewers are constructed of spun concrete pipes with tapered joints.

During the progress of the scheme it has been found necessary to extend several lengths of sewers to serve new development that has taken place since the scheme was prepared, and a number of private estates still being constructed have been sewer'd by the developers; these latter sewers will ultimately be vested in the Council.

The scheme provides for the re-connection of existing properties to the new sewers in all cases where they are at present discharging effluent into the old parish sewers. Lateral drains are being provided to the boundaries of the remaining properties on the line of sewer.

As in the case of Somersham, the Council decided to implement Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, where-by the Council will pay 50% of the expenses reasonably incurred by the owners of property on the line of sewer in converting existing pail closets to water closets.

Some progress was made in other main drainage schemes for the district:-

(a) The Bury Scheme was approved in principal by the Ministry and the Council was authorised to advertise for tenders. Unfortunately the Ramsey Sewage Disposal Works is at present incapable of dealing with the proposed scheme at Bury, and it will be impossible to commence the work until the Ramsey works have been enlarged. Negotiations to this end were proceeding at the end of the year.

(b) Holywell-cum-Needingworth Scheme — The land required for a pumping station at Holywell was acquired during the year and the Ministry held a local investigation into this parish scheme. Ultimately approval in principal was received subject to some slight revision of the design of the disposal works to provide for the increasing population in the village, the clarification of the position in respect to farm effluents and an assurance that householders in Holywell would connect their properties to the proposed sewers.

These matters were being dealt with at the end of the year.

Provisional arrangements were made by the Council with Saint Ives Borough Council for domestic sewage from properties in the parish of Needingworth, including English Chicory Ltd., to be drained to the Saint Ives sewers when the Borough's new drainage scheme was constructed, as it would be uneconomic to link these properties to the village scheme.

Main Drainage Schemes are still urgently required in other parishes. It is to be hoped that the programme will gain momentum and other schemes will be brought to fruition

in the near future; indeed in some villages normal development will have to be postponed until such schemes are completed.

## (2) Rivers and Streams

The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board.

During the year consultations continued with the County Council, as the Planning Authority, and the River Board, into the possibility of implementing Flood Protection Schemes for the parishes of Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots.

It is understood that as a result of these consultations the River Board is at present revising its original scheme for the protection of the Hemingfords'.

It is now apparent that the District Council is responsible under the Parish Award to maintain the ancient flood bank which gives partial protection to Hemingford Grey, but many auxilliary works will have to be undertaken before these villages can enjoy the immunity from floods provided to Houghton and Wyton on the opposite bank of the river.

It is to be hoped that the necessity for such a scheme will not be overlooked, as even slight flooding of these villages in the future would result in the surcharging of the foul sewers now being laid. As previously reported, such an event would be a definite hazard to public health.

The amenities of the River are enjoyed by an increasing number of people every year. The volume of pleasure craft on many reaches has more than doubled in the past two or three years, and many miles of both banks are lined with anglers at week-ends from early summer to mid-winter.

Preliminary arrangements for the construction of the Diddington Reservoir were completed during the year, so it can be anticipated that in a few years the abstraction of the maximum quantity of water permitted under the Great Ouse Water Act will commence.

It is to be hoped that the amenities of the river which gives so much pleasure to many people will not be seriously affected by such abstractions.

## Minor Watercourses

The Council continued to press forward with the cleansing and maintenance of Awarded Watercourses, the work being carried out by contract. During the year a further  $18\frac{1}{4}$  miles of these watercourses were cleaned out, making a total length of 26 miles in the past two years.

In addition, routine cleansing of sewer ditches, amounting in all to 114 chains, was also undertaken during the year.

There was no improvement in the effluent being discharged into Parsons Drove Brook from Saint Ives Borough Sewage Disposal Works and Industrial Premises also situated in the Borough. Further representations were made to the Borough Council and the River Board during the year.

This pollution is rapidly extending along the brook, and it is indeed fortunate that there is a distance of some two miles before the brook finally discharges into the River Ouse.

It is to be regretted that such new sources of pollution as is apparent in Parsons Drove Brook, can still occur in the 1960's.

### **3. (1) Closet Conversions**

As in the past three years' progress in the conversion of pail to water lavatories was more or less confined to houses improved either with a discretionary or a standard grant.

It is anticipated that many conversions will be carried out under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, when the Hemingfords', Houghton and Wyton Main Drainage Scheme is completed.

It is the policy of the Council to pay up to 50% of the cost of the expenses reasonably incurred in effecting conversions.

### **3. (2) Public Cleansing**

#### **(a) Night-soil Collections**

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out over the whole of the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments. Approximately 990 pails were emptied each week.

Disposal is still a serious problem especially in wet weather when the limited areas of agricultural land available and suitable for surface disposal become inaccessible.

The straw compounds erected at Oldhurst Sewage Works were renewed during the year and although far from satisfactory provide the only alternative method of disposal. Indeed it is true to say that without these beds it would be impossible to continue this essential service.

The effluent from the straw compounds is drained to the Sludge Drying Beds sump and is pumped back very slowly through the Works for treatment. With steady dosing and dilution it was possible to obtain a satisfactory effluent.

The contracts entered into with Huntingdon Borough Council and Saint Ives Borough Council for the collection of night-soil in these two towns continued during the year. Two collections each week are carried out at Saint Ives and one collection each week at Huntingdon.

### (b) Cesspool Emptying

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied during the year was 1,131.

By far the larger proportion of these are situated in the riverside villages and the next two years should see a substantial reduction in the number emptied when the main drainage scheme for the Hemingfords', Houghton and Wyton comes into operation.

With this service too, the difficulty lies not in the collection but in the disposal of vast quantities of sewage and sludge, most of which was disposed of by means of the straw compounds at Oldhurst.

The charges for the service have remained unaltered from the time they were first fixed in 1950, namely, 25/- for each 700 gallon load and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying.

In addition the service is available to private individuals in adjacent districts at a higher charge.

### (c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained.

Three vehicles are used for this service; two diesel driven "dual tips" of 15 cubic yard capacity and one 22 cubic yard compression type vehicle fitted with hydraulic rams.

Each vehicle is normally manned by two driver-loaders, an additional loader being available where the daily schedule necessitates some assistance.

The refuse is tipped at two worked out gravel pits situated at Somersham and Hemingford Grey, where the refuse is spread and levelled with a bulldozer.

Following representations from the Somersham Parish Council, and the report of the Ministry's Inspector which

advised that if tipping was to continue, a system of controlled tipping should be introduced in accordance with the Ministry's standard, every effort was made to prevent fires at this tip and to spread and level off the refuse at frequent intervals.

The Council also decided to explore the possibilities of obtaining a tip in a more isolated position and negotiations to purchase an old brickworks situated at the edge of the fen land between Somersham and Pidley, were commenced with the London Brick Company Ltd.

In addition to the normal house refuse collection, contract work for additional collections of house and trade refuse was undertaken at a Royal Air Force Station situated in the District.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council a weekly kerbside collection of house refuse is carried out in Saint Ives. Trade Refuse is also collected from non-domestic properties in the Borough and the Rural District.

### **Litter Receptacles**

As a result of the Council's decision, based on the Public Health Act, 1961, several Parish Councils have decided to provide litter baskets in the village centres.

In conjunction with the County Council, as the planning authority, suggestions as to the best types of receptacles to be provided have been forwarded to the parishes concerned.

These receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish; additional clearances are in many cases carried out by the County Council Roadmen.

### **3. (3) Sanitary Inspections of the Area**

#### **(a) Housing Inspections:-**

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	337
Re-inspections	...	...	160
Number of Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	55
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	49
Number of Statutory Notices Served	...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	—

It was not found necessary to issue any Statutory Notices in respect of these inspections except in relation to those houses which are being dealt with under the Council's Slum Clearance Programme; the majority of the defects found being remedied after an informal approach to the owner concerned.

**(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937:—**

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	5	8	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	42	49	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	47	57	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:—				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	I	o	o	o	o
Overcrowding	o	o	o	o	o
Unreasonable temperature	o	o	o	o	o
Inadequate ventilation	o	o	o	o	o
Ineffective drainage of floors	o	o	o	o	o
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	o	o	o	o	o
(b) Unsuitable or defective	o	o	o	o	o
(c) Not separate for sexes	o	o	o	o	o
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	I	o	o	o	o
	—	—	—	—	—

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

**(c) Inspections under Regulations, etc.**

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	203
Dumps, tips	...	...	...	...	...	120
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	61
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	1
Butchers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	182
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	174
Pumps, Wells	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	259
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	494
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	365
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	179
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meat from outside District	...	...	...	...	...	22
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	62
After Infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	81
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	44
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	217
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	178
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	210
Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	446
Smoke Abatement	...	...	...	...	...	20
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	137
					Total	3,484

As a result of the inspections recorded above, several informal notices were served on owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with the relevant Acts and Regulations.

The infringements found were of a minor character and were rectified after a request to do so had been made by the Department.

Several large Broiler Houses sited in residential areas have resulted in complaints of nuisance from both smell and noise being received from occupiers of houses near the sites. Representations have been made to the owners of the Broiler Houses and the burning of litter on the sites has been prohibited.

At present no satisfactory solution to the overall problem has been found other than the closing of the Broiler Houses.

### 3. (4) Caravan Sites

Since the implementation of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, the Council has approved standard conditions applicable to all the licensed caravan sites in the district.

The Standards broadly follow the Ministry's recommendations and as such the licensing conditions vary according to the number of caravans on each site.

The total number of licensed sites in the district is 24, of these, only 3 sites contain more than 20 caravans while 16 of the sites are only licensed for one caravan.

During the year one discontinuance order was made by the County Council in respect of a site licensed for the stationing of caravans, and the site was closed.

Several itinerant van dwellers station their vans in the district, the majority of whom are employed as casual workers in Agriculture and Horticulture.

Co-operation with the Council as the Planning Authority was maintained during the year.

### **3. (5) Swimming Baths**

Following the refusal of the Minister, on a planning appeal, to allow a site owned by Saint Ives Golf Club to be developed as a Swimming Pool, further efforts were made to find a suitable site.

The Joint Committee appointed by Saint Ives Borough and the Rural District Councils ultimately suggested that five acres of land situated between Ramsey Road and Pig Lane, St. Ives would make a suitable site and both Councils agreed to negotiate for its purchase subject to approval and a favourable report from the Council's Consulting Engineers.

One small plastic pool has been provided at one County Primary School in the district, a circulating pump is used to assist in the effective chlorination of the water.

Regular sampling is carried out by the school staff to ensure that an effective level of free chlorine is maintained.

Periodic check sampling is also carried out by the Department.

### **3. (6) Rodent Control**

The Council does not employ any Rodent Operators; however, the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Staff has been trained in rodent control and deals with minor infestations.

Block disinfestations are carried out when necessary, the service of the necessary Operator being made available by an adjoining local authority.

The large increase in the rat populations in the summer and autumn of 1961 was not maintained in 1962, but such periodical fluctuations in population are not exceptional.

Regular disinfection of the Council's refuse tips were also carried out; Warfarin and Phosphides were found the most effective.

## HOUSING

### (a) Slum Clearance

The following table shows the progress in the Council's Slum Clearance Programme up to the end of the year.

Number of houses represented as Unfit:-

(a) Clearance Areas ... ... ...	30
(b) Individual Unfit houses ... ...	217
Number dealt with by informal action ... ...	5
	<hr/>
	Total
	252
Number of houses included in Clearance Order	30
Number of Demolition Orders made ... ...	94
Number of Closing Orders made ... ...	3
Number of houses demolished as result of:-	
informal action ... ... ...	10
Number of Undertakings accepted ... ...	110
Number of houses closed as a result of:-	
informal action ... ... ...	1
Number of houses made fit as a result of:-	
informal action ... ... ...	1
Pending at 31/12/62 ... ...	3
	<hr/>
	252

Number of Houses demolished:-

(a) In Clearance Areas ... ...	30
(b) By Demolition Orders ... ...	67
(c) By Informal Action ... ...	10
(d) As a result of Undertakings ...	17
Number of Undertakings cancelled ... ...	41
Number of Demolition Orders cancelled ...	8

The estimated number of unfit houses in the area in 1955 was 326. Since 1955 a number of these unfit houses have been reconditioned under the Improvement Grants Scheme and several cottages in the Fen areas and on outlying farms in the remainder of the district have been converted into agricultural stores.

It may be stated therefore that the original programme has been substantially completed.

However, during the past eight years many houses considered to be 'border line' cases in 1955 have deteriorated still further and these houses will be dealt with under the Slum Clearance provisions of the Housing Acts as expeditiously as possible.

The standard of housing in the district has improved considerably in the past 15 years and will undoubtedly improve rapidly in the next decade. More and more young married couples are dissatisfied with the accommodation available in old cottages, even those worthy of adorning picture postcards. A modern kitchen with hot and cold water laid on to the sink unit is much more attractive than the old stone sink which in many cases has now become an ornament or a bird bath on the front lawn, and the lavender water which perfumes the bath, more than compensates for the absence of the scent of the roses climbing round the door, disguising the damp and decaying external walls.

As further houses are built it will become more difficult to find tenants for sub-standard houses and undoubtedly with the shortage of land available for development the sites will be more valuable than the houses. Meanwhile, however, houses will continue to be inspected and where necessary, represented to the Council as unfit for habitation.

#### (b) General

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both council and privately owned houses since 1946:-

		Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	... ... ... ...	18	10
1947	... ... ... ...	47	29
1948	... ... ... ...	50	19
1949	... ... ... ...	47	15
1950	... ... ... ...	47	21
1951	... ... ... ...	25	8
1952	... ... ... ...	56	2
1953	... ... ... ...	50	23
1954	... ... ... ...	74	23
1955	... ... ... ...	63	17
1956	... ... ... ...	15	36
1957	... ... ... ...	25	43
1958	... ... ... ...	21	41
1959	... ... ... ...	29	76
1960	... ... ... ...	19	62
1961	... ... ... ...	26	43
1962	... ... ... ...	20	75
		632	543

The total number of inhabited houses in the area at the end of 1961 was 4,446 the growth of the district since the end of the war is clearly indicated by the fact that in 1945 the number of houses was then 3,120.

The number of inhabited houses in the area at the end of the year, excluding those on Service Establishments, was 4,570.

It will be observed that private development is still proceeding at a substantial rate and together with council house development was equivalent to the addition of a reasonable sized village.

The bulk of the private development was confined to the riverside villages, but increasing interest is being shown by developers in several other villages.

The land zoned for development is limited and the Council's housing programme will be restricted until such time as it acquires new sites, as, with few exceptions, it has already developed all its available building land.

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 1,042. All are subject to the different rent scheme and are maintained by a Direct Labour Force consisting of a foreman and 8 men.

### **Improvement Grants**

The number of applications for Improvement Grants remained fairly steady during the past four years, i.e. 35 in 1959; 32 in 1960; 37 in 1961 and 38 in 1962, with 1 refusal and 2 withdrawals.

During the year Standard Grants amounting to £1,761 were made in respect of 14 houses, an average of £126 per house; Discretionary Grants amounting to £4,739, were made in respect of 21 houses, an average of £216 per house.

Since the implementation of the Improvement Grants Scheme by the Council, Grants to the total value of £55,303 have been made to owners in respect of 273 houses, an average of £203 per house.

The Improvement Works to the pre-war council houses were commenced in 1961. The number completed to the end of the year was 38, while work is in progress on a further 42.

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## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD**

### **(a) Milk Supply**

A large proportion of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short time Pasteurisation plants.

Occasionally complaints regarding dirty bottles are received from members of the public, but every possible precaution is taken at the bottling plants to minimise such occurrences.

It is true to say that many householders fail to appreciate the necessity to treat milk bottles for what they are — containers for a food, that is, in itself, a natural medium for the growth of pathogenic organisms.

This problem could be solved by replacing bottles with non-returnable receptacles, but economic considerations at present preclude this system.

Neither should it be forgotten that considerable additional expense would be incurred by the Council in disposing of such non-returnable containers, all of which would be placed in the dustbins.

The Council supported the East Anglian Clean Milk Bottle Campaign Committee which organised a publicity campaign aimed primarily at those consumers who consistently misuse milk bottles and in so doing add another hazard to the health of the public.

Although the Council still have adequate powers to inspect all premises, including dairies, under the General Public Health legislation, all the specific regulations, formerly administered by the Council, have now been transferred to other authorities.

As a general rule therefore, no routine visits are made to dairies unless exceptional circumstances warrant an inspection.

This procedure has been adopted to avoid duplication of visits from officers of different local authorities.

### (b) Ice Cream

There are no licensed manufacturers in the district; all the ice cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well known firms.

25 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for examination.

The following table indicates the results obtained:-

Provisional Grade 1	15
„ „ 2	4
„ „ 3	5
„ „ 4	1

All the samples placed in Provisional Grade 3 and 4 were manufactured by the same firm. Subsequent sampling from the same shops showed considerable improvement, and it is thought that the unsatisfactory results were due to over-ordering by the retailers.

### (c) Meat and Other Foods

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area.

All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers either buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

Routine examinations of meat and other foods were carried out during the year. Small quantities of tinned meat, fish, fruit, etc., were condemned, in addition a consignment of 20 lbs. of Smoked Salmon and Trout which had been delayed in transit, were also condemned.

An investigation was carried out into the sale of water-cress collected from a ditch in the district. Bacteriological reports indicated that the ditch was polluted and the water-cress contaminated. Arrangements were made with the owners of the land to clear the remaining water-cress and prevent any further unauthorized access to the ditch.

### Food Hygiene Regulations

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:-

Bakers	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers	...	...	...	...	...	9
Café's and Canteens	...	...	...	...	...	9
Confectioners	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	5
General Stores	...	...	...	...	...	54
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	2
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	34

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations but several requests were made to owners to provide the facilities required under the Regulations.

Consultations also proceeded with Breweries regarding the modernisation of some of the licensed premises, which are still substandard.

### Adulteration

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food & Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.



